

compatriots to seek their support for a policy of compulsion which he, in the light of facts known to him, accepted as inescapable, might have carried them with him to some degree at least; but to ask him to champion an unpopular policy in the making of which he had no lot, would be simply to leave him open to the accusation that he had sold out his people for the sake of office. On the other hand if Sir Wilfrid Laurier's acceptance of office had been followed by a suspension of the policy of compulsion pending further consideration, the effect must have been disastrous to Laurier's influence in the provinces where sentiment for compulsion is strong. Sir Wilfrid was put in an impossible position by the tactics of Sir Robert Borden.

"The theory that it was intended to destroy Laurier is by no means far fetched. It may well have been calculated that Sir Wilfrid when confronted with the inevitable division of the party would retire from public life. The consequences of such action could be foretold with accuracy. The French Liberal Party would disappear, Bourassa would become dictator of Quebec. He would go to Ottawa with a following of fifty members, creating in future parliaments a clerical and nationalist bloc which would always be in the market ready to trade political support for special privileges. No greater calamity could overtake Canada at this critical time. From this, Canada will be saved if Sir Wilfrid remains in public life, which he undoubtedly will."

In other words, according to the Free Press, the same old "cleavage tactics" were being adopted.

The Free Press itself cast in its lot with Union Government in the face of its powerful statement of June 12, 1917.

### **"HUSH, HUSH," SAYS SPECIAL PRIVILEGE.**

With the formation of Union Government a tacit agreement was reached that the tariff should be shelved until after the war. Thus Special Privilege secured a further reprieve.

Of the election it is unnecessary to speak. Suffice it to say that early in the campaign the propagandists of the Government abandoned dignified tactics, and adopted the old policy of bringing Quebec into disrepute before the people of other provinces. Lurid stories of rioting, sedition, and disloyalty in Quebec were circulated throughout the Do-